
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6305

AN ACT PROHIBITING HUNTING IN PROXIMITY TO WILDLIFE PRESERVES.

SUMMARY:

This bill authorizes the energy and environmental protection commissioner to amend certain portions of the state hunting regulations if he finds a particular location's physical setting presents an unreasonable risk to animals in a wildlife sanctuary. (The bill does not define "wildlife sanctuary.") By law, the commissioner can amend the regulations if he finds that (1) a particular location presents an unreasonable risk that hunters could violate the regulations or (2) documented complaints show violations occur frequently.

The regulations the commissioner may amend for a particular location prohibit discharging:

1. firearms within 500 feet of a building (a) occupied by people or domestic animals or (b) storing flammable or combustible material, unless the building owner's written permission is obtained and carried while hunting, in which case, the distance must be at least 250 feet and
2. any hunting weapon toward people, buildings, or domestic animals (Conn. Agency Regs. § 26-66-1(d) & (e)).

By law, the commissioner must hold at least one hearing annually to consider changing these hunting regulations for particular locations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 17 Nay 11 (03/25/2013)